

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 8 is amended. Claims 1-9 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is presented by the claim amendments and accordingly, entry and approval of same are respectfully requested.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 4 and 7 are amended to recite that a paper guide of an ink-jet printer, using claim 1 as an example, includes "a plurality of first guide ribs positioned to protrude from the paper guide to face a front-half swath of a printhead with an equal, first interval therebetween; and a plurality of second guide ribs positioned to protrude from the paper guide to face a rear-half swath of the printhead with an equal, second interval therebetween wider than the first interval between the first guide ribs." (See, for example FIG. 4). No new matter is presented by the claim amendments and accordingly, entry and approval of same are respectfully requested,

Claim 8 is for form and to correct informalities and the amendment of claim 8 does not narrow the scope of the claims within the meaning of Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinszoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd (SUPREME COURT RULING, July 12, 2002).

ITEM 2: OBJECTION TO CLAIM 8

The Examiner objects to claim 8 because of informalities. The Examiner contends that:

claim 8 does not appear to be a complete statement. Additionally, the language in claim 8 appears to be a double recitation of that which has already been recited in claim 1, specifically that the second interval is wider than the first interval.

Regarding the Examiner's objection that claim 8 does not appear to be a complete statement claim 8 is amended herein for form to replace the term --with-- with "have" and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Regarding the Examiner's contention that claim 8 appears to be a double recitation of that which has already been recited in claim 1, Applicant points out to the Examiner that dependent claim 8 is dependent on parent independent claim 7, and not on claim 1.

ITEMS 4-9: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-9

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka et al. (U.S.P. 5,515,094), claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Samoto et al. (U.S.P. 2003/0043248), claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of Bae (US 5,775,824), and claim 4 is rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanemitsu (JP 2002-103706) in view of Bae.

The rejections are traversed.

Tanaka discusses (see, for example, col. 5 starting at line 6) an ink jet printer having a plurality of ribs and auxiliary ribs that are polished.

Samoto discusses (see, for example, paragraphs [0084]-[0085]) a printer having a plurality of ribs formed in parallel with a sheet feeding direction.

Bae discusses (see, for example, col. 3 starting at line 25) a printing apparatus ejecting recording paper upon opening a cover.

Kanemitsu discusses (see, for example, Abstract) a platen having ribs formed independently.

An *arguendo* combination of Tanaka in view of Bae discusses an ink jet printer having a plurality of ribs and auxiliary ribs that are polished ejecting recording paper upon opening a cover.

An *arguendo* combination of Kanemitsu in view of Bae discusses a platen having ribs formed independently a platen having ribs formed independently for a printing apparatus ejecting recording paper upon opening a cover.

Traverse of Rejections

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a paper guide of an ink-jet printer including a "plurality of first guide ribs positioned to protrude from the paper guide to face a front-half swath of a printhead with an equal, first interval therebetween; and a plurality of second guide ribs positioned to protrude from the paper guide to face a rear-half swath of the printhead with an equal, second interval therebetween wider than the first interval between the first guide ribs, wherein each of the second guide ribs is connected to a corresponding first guide rib." .

Independent claim 4, as amended, recites an ink-jet printer including "a plurality of first guide ribs are positioned to protrude from the paper guide to face a front-half swath of the printhead with an equal, first interval therebetween, and the plurality of second guide ribs protrude on the paper guide to face a rear-half swath of the printhead with an equal, second interval therebetween to be wider than the interval between the first guide ribs."

Independent claim 7, as amended, recites a paper guide of an ink-jet printer including "a first region including a plurality of equally-spaced first guide ribs and having a first flattening ability; and a second region comprising a plurality of equally-spaced second guide ribs and

having a second flattening ability, wherein the second flattening ability is greater than the first flattening ability."

Applicant submits that none of the cited art, alone or in combination, discusses, for example, features of first guide ribs positioned to protrude from the paper guide to face a front-half swath of a printhead with an equal, first interval therebetween; and a plurality of second guide ribs positioned to protrude from the paper guide to face a rear-half swath of the printhead with an equal, second interval therebetween.

The Examiner contends that Tanaka discusses first ribs 11 and second guide ribs 15. (Action at page 2). Applicant submits that Tanaka does not discuss first guide ribs with an equal interval therebetween and second guide ribs with an equal interval therebetween. Rather, Tanaka discusses (see, for example, FIG. 4 and col. 5, lines 2-3) that "numerals 15 denote auxiliary ribs disposed in the positions corresponding to both ends of the printing paper P."

The Examiner contends that Samoto discusses "first ribs are the first half of all the ribs 256 and 258. The second ribs are the second half of ribs 258." (Action at page 4). As seen from Samoto FIG. 6, and as annotated by the Examiner on page 4, Samoto does not discuss first guide ribs with an equal interval therebetween and second guide ribs with an equal interval therebetween.

Bae merely discusses ejecting recording paper upon opening a cover and does not discuss first guide ribs with an equal interval therebetween and second guide ribs with an equal interval therebetween.

Kanemitsu merely discusses a platen having ribs formed independently and does not discuss first guide ribs with an equal interval therebetween and second guide ribs with an equal interval therebetween. Further, Kanemitsu discussing ribs formed independently teaches away from recited features of claim 1 "wherein each of the second guide ribs is connected to a corresponding first guide rib."

Conclusion

Since features recited by independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 8 (and respective dependent claims) are not discussed by the cited art alone or in combination the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 1-9 allowed.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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